

PATENT

Docket No. 1232-4825

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Akihiko NAGANO

Group Art Unit: 2878

Serial No.: 10/083,996

Examiner: Stephen K. Yam

Filed: February 25, 2002

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated November 26, 2004, Applicant has concurrently filed a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. This Amendment is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114. Prior to examination on the merits, entry of the following Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

please amend the application as indicated below.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper; and

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Applicant wishes to thank to the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the telephone interview conducted on December 15, 2004 in which the Examiner promised to consider USSN 09/698241 that was previously submitted in an IDS by the Applicant but was not considered by the Examiner.